

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Concerning

**RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0085294)**

FOR

**FRENCH GULCH (NEVADA) MINING CORPORATION AND
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON MINE
SHASTA COUNTY**

On 27 May 2010, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order R5-2010-0052 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CA0085294) for French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation's and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (Discharger) Washington Mine (Facility) in Shasta County. French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation owns and operates the Washington Mine and associated water treatment system, which is permitted to discharge up to 0.432 million gallons per day, into Scorpion Creek (a tributary to Whiskeytown Lake), a water of the United States. WDR Order R5-2010-0052 contained, in part, final effluent limits for numerous constituents for which the Discharger could not immediately comply. Therefore, on 27 May 2010, the Central Valley Water Board issued Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2010-0053, which included interim effluent limits and a time schedule for the Discharger to come into compliance.

WDR R5-2010-0052 expired on 1 May 2015 and is administratively extended until adoption of the proposed WDRs. The proposed tentative Order is a limited term NPDES permit renewal with a permit term of only 2 years. Reasons for this limited term renewal include 1) the water treatment system only recently began to collect and treat discharge from all mining adits as required by CDO R5-2010-0053 so limited water quality data is available for purposes of a full renewal, 2) revisions to the monitoring and reporting program are necessary due to the removal of several point source discharges but this is not possible because WDR R5-2010-0052 is expired, and 3) there is currently no active mining at the Facility and it is uncertain when mining operations will continue.

A public hearing to address this matter will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE:	5/6 December 2016
TIME:	8:30 am
PLACE:	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 11020 Sun Center Drive #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Designated parties but not interested persons will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. Central Valley Water Board staff will prepare the administrative record, and may present evidence, make an oral presentation and cross-examine opposing witnesses.

Interested persons may not cross examine witnesses, and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence is submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 pm on 2 November 2016**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and, in particular, how the person is affected by the discharge.

The tentative Order was issued on **4 October 2016**. Persons wishing to comment on this item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than **5:00 pm on 2 November 2016**. Written materials submitted after this date and time will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Central Valley Water Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Board members, counsel staff or others, at the discretion of the Board.

Anyone having questions on the tentative documents should contact Jeremy Pagan at (530) 224-4850, or at jeremy.pagan@waterboards.ca.gov. Interested parties may download the tentative Order and related documents from the Central Valley Water Board's Internet website at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The final meeting agenda will be available at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/

at least ten days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the dates the Board meeting will be held, indicate the anticipated order of agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order(s).

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, § 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code § 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/

Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml

or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



Clint E. Snyder, P.G.
Assistant Executive Officer

4 October 2016